



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land  
Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

By

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And

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And

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### HB 587 – RELATING TO WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and UH Water Resources Research Center support HB 587. Hawai'i's counties all struggle with diverse wastewater treatment challenges as exemplified by repeated sewage spills into Hilo Bay, extreme costs for wastewater infrastructure upgrades in Honolulu, and the recent ruling in the U.S. Supreme court putting Maui County's Lahaina wastewater treatment plant discharge into non-compliance with EPA regulations. These diverse challenges need to be understood and addressed at a state level. This bill would require each county to submit to the Legislature a comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan report that addresses and identifies the county's wastewater management needs, including financial needs. This step would promote improvement and standardization of wastewater management and would help the state meet its mandate to protect environmental resources and human health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.